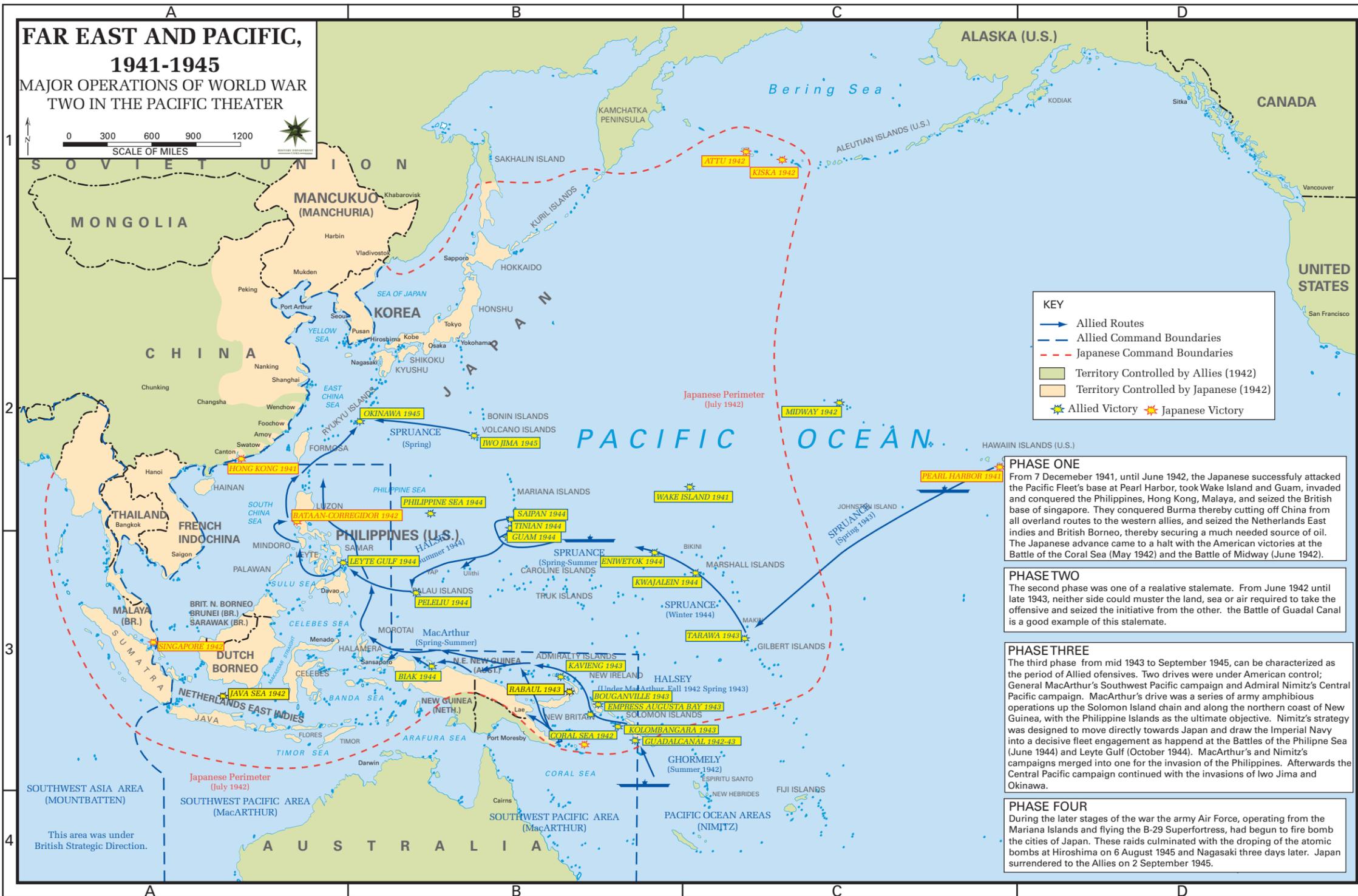


FAR EAST AND PACIFIC, 1941-1945

MAJOR OPERATIONS OF WORLD WAR TWO IN THE PACIFIC THEATER

0 300 600 900 1200
SCALE OF MILES



KEY

- Allied Routes
- - - Allied Command Boundaries
- - - Japanese Command Boundaries
- Territory Controlled by Allies (1942)
- Territory Controlled by Japanese (1942)
- ★ Allied Victory ★ Japanese Victory

PHASE ONE
From 7 December 1941, until June 1942, the Japanese successfully attacked the Pacific Fleet's base at Pearl Harbor, took Wake Island and Guam, invaded and conquered the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaya, and seized the British base of Singapore. They conquered Burma thereby cutting off China from all overland routes to the western allies, and seized the Netherlands East Indies and British Borneo, thereby securing a much needed source of oil. The Japanese advance came to a halt with the American victories at the Battle of the Coral Sea (May 1942) and the Battle of Midway (June 1942).

PHASE TWO
The second phase was one of a relative stalemate. From June 1942 until late 1943, neither side could muster the land, sea or air required to take the offensive and seized the initiative from the other. The Battle of Guadal Canal is a good example of this stalemate.

PHASE THREE
The third phase from mid 1943 to September 1945, can be characterized as the period of Allied offensives. Two drives were under American control; General MacArthur's Southwest Pacific campaign and Admiral Nimitz's Central Pacific campaign. MacArthur's drive was a series of army amphibious operations up the Solomon Island chain and along the northern coast of New Guinea, with the Philippine Islands as the ultimate objective. Nimitz's strategy was designed to move directly towards Japan and draw the Imperial Navy into a decisive fleet engagement as happened at the Battles of the Philippine Sea (June 1944) and Leyte Gulf (October 1944). MacArthur's and Nimitz's campaigns merged into one for the invasion of the Philippines. Afterwards the Central Pacific campaign continued with the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

PHASE FOUR
During the later stages of the war the army Air Force, operating from the Mariana Islands and flying the B-29 Superfortress, had begun to fire bomb the cities of Japan. These raids culminated with the dropping of the atomic bombs at Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and Nagasaki three days later. Japan surrendered to the Allies on 2 September 1945.

TIMELINE

- 1941**
 - Japanese invade Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec.
 - U.S. declares war on Japan, 8 Dec.
 - Japanese invade Philippines, 10 Dec.
 - Hong Kong surrenders, 25 Dec.
- 1942**
 - Japanese take Singapore, 15 Feb.
 - Battle of Java Sea, 27-29 Feb.
 - Netherlands East Indies falls to Japan
 - U.S. troops on Bataan forced to surrender, 9 Apr.
 - Doolittle bombing raid on Tokyo, 18 Apr.
 - Battle of Coral Sea, 6-8 May
 - Battle of Midway, 3-6 June
 - Japan seizes Attu & Kiska in Aleutians, 7 June
 - Guadalcanal Campaign, 7 Aug. 1942- 9 Feb. 1943
- 1943**
 - Buna captured, 22 Jan
 - "Island hopping" in Solomon Islands begins, 30 June
 - Lae falls, 4 Sept.
 - Bougainville invaded, 1 Nov.
 - U.S. takes Tarawa & Makin, 20-23 Nov.
 - New Britain invaded, 29 Dec.
- 1944**
 - Operations on Kwajalein, 31 Jan.-4 Feb.
 - Invasion of Eniwetok, 17-20 Feb.
 - Admiralty Islands invaded, 29 Feb.
 - Amphibious assault on Hollandia, 22 April
 - Invasion of Saipan, 15 June-9 July
 - Battle of the Philippine Sea, 18-19 June
 - Tojo resigns, 18 July
 - Invasion of Guam, 21 July-8 August
 - Invasions of Morotai & Palau Islands, 15 Sept.
 - MacArthur lands in Philippines, 20 Oct.
 - Battle of Leyte Gul, 23-26 Oct.
- 1945**
 - Allies land on Luzon, 9 Jan.
 - Invasion of Iwo Jima, 19 Feb.-26 Mar.
 - Okinawa bombed, 24-27 Mar.
 - Roosevelt dies, Truman becomes President, 12 Apr.
 - Invasion of Mindanao, 17 Apr.
 - Okinawa captured, 21 June
 - Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, 6 Aug
 - Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 9 Aug.
 - Japan agrees to surrender, 14 Aug
 - Japan surrenders aboard *U.S.S. Missouri*, 2 Sept